UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR EUROPE

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CONFERENCE ON TRADE
AND DEVELOPMENT

Trade Facilitation

TRADE/WP.4/TFN.69
TD/B/FAL/TFN.69
20 November 1989

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TRADE FACILITATION NEWS

A. FORMALITIES AND PROCEDURES

ECOSOC: Resolution 1989/118 on interregional co-operation for facilitation of international trade*** At its second regular session, in July 1989, the United Nations Economic and Social Council adopted Resolution 1989/118 concerning interregional co-operation for the facilitation of international trade procedures including the implementation of UN/EDIFACT. Conscious of the global importance of trade facilitation and of the work carried out by the regional commissions to reduce, simplify and harmonize formalities, procedures and documentation for the development of international trade and noting that the Rules for Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport (UN/EDIFACT), being developed and maintained within the Economic Commission for Europe, allow for the progressive replacement of trade documents by electronic messages, ECOSOC invited the regional commissions (ECA, ECE, ECLAC, ESCWA and ESCAP) in co-operation with UNCTAD to formulate a draft proposal for interregional co-operation based on projects detailing technical and resource requirements, duly taking into account the national laws and regulations and the needs and concerns of the various regions, especially those of the developing countries, in the area of trade facilitation, and in particular in phased application of UN/EDIFACT wherever appropriate, and to submit the draft proposal for approval to the Council at its second regular session of 1990. See Ref.89-037 concerning the follow-up of that Resolution.

Ref. 89-030, Source: ECE

Deadline for contributions
Participants are requested to transmit their contributions to Trade Facilitation News No.70 by 15 January 1989

GE.89- 32924/1710c

United States: Regulation amended to permit EDI bills The United States General Services Administration recently amended one regulation - 41 C.F.R. 101-41 - to explicitly authorize the exchange of EDI bills of lading and freight bills between government agencies and carriers. Signatures are replaced by electronic authentication codes. Records of EDI transactions should be stored on electronic media, accompanied by signed statements certifying that the information in the records was duplicated accurately. A carrier proposing to use EDI with a government agency must first submit a written undertaking that binds it to the terms of the amended regulation.

Ref. 89-031, Source: EDIA Network, Volume 2, No.3, September 1989.

B. DOCUMENTATION, STANDARDS AND ALIGNED FORMS

ISO/DIS 8439 Forms design - Basic layout** A third DIS (revised) of this International Standard was circulated in May 1989 with time limit for reply on 20 June 1989. The voting results were:

P-members: 7 in favor (BE, FI, JP, NL, ZA, SE, US) out of 13 = 54 per cent
Member bodies voting: 12 in favor (BE, CS, EG, FI, HU, JP, KE, NL, ZA, SE, TH, SU) our of 16 = 75 per cent

As this draft has received the required majority the revised text of ISO 8439 may now be prepared for submission to the ISO Council.

Ref. 89-032, Source: ISO

ISO: International Standards in process and published*** During the period 1 April-31 August 1989, twenty six International Standards relevant to trade facilitation were registered as draft proposals, twenty-one were circulated as draft International Standards for voting and sixteen were published. See complete list in Annex.

Ref. 89-033, Source: ISO Bulletins, Vol.20, Nos 6-9, 1989

C. DATA TECHNIQUES, TERMOLOGY, CODES

UN/EDIFACT - Standard Messages under development** At its thirtieth session, held from 18 to 22 September 1989, the UN/ECE Working Party on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures (WP.4) adopted five messages for trial use (CONTRL-Control message, CUSDEC - Customs Declaration Message, CUSRES - Customs Response Message, IFTMFR - International Forwarding and Transport Message Framework, QALITY - Quality Data Message), and twelve draft messages have been submitted by the UN/EDIFACT Rapporteurs for information (ORDESP - Order Response, ORDCHG - Order Change, CURRAC - Current Account, REINAC - Reinsurance Account, DELFOR - Delivery Schedule, DELJIT - Just-in-time Delivery, PARTIN - Party Information, PRICAT - Price/Sales Catalogue, REMADV - Remittance Advice, REQOTE - Request for quote, QUOTES - Quote, STATAC - Statement of Account). The Working Party (WP.4) noted the action taken by the Governments of Australia and New Zealand for the creation of an EDIFACT Board responsible for both countries and encouraged the nomination of a UN/EDIFACT rapporteur for Australia and New Zealand.

Ref. 89-034, Source: ECE

United States: UN/EDIFACT assessment study. The Electronic Data Interchange Association (EDIA) recently announced the beginning of an independent study to analyze the potential impact of UN/EDIFACT in North America. The study is designed to provide information that will assist the EDI user community in determining applicability of UN/EDIFACT to their individual situations. Results will be presented at the twenty-first National EDI Systems Conference and Exhibit to be held from December 12 to 14, 1989 in Washington, D.C.

Ref. 89-035, Source: EDIA Press Release, August 29, 1989

CCC: Support draft messages CUSDEC and CUSRES*** In accordance with the CCC Permanent Technical Committee decision to support the draft Customs Declaration Electronic message (CUSDEC), the CCC ADP Sub-Committee, at its twenty-eighth meeting (Brussels, 30 October-03 November 1989) discussed the report of the EDI Advisory Group with respect to the development of UNSMs Customs Declaration message (CUSDEC) and Customs Response message (CUSRES). The granting of Status 1 (Approval for a trial use) to these messages by UN/ECE had been noted. A number of delegations reported to the Advisory Group on their current use of CUSDEC/CUSRES messages or on their plans to use these messages in future. The Sub-Committee noted with satisfaction the high level of actual or planned implementation of the messages by national administrations and accepted the view of the Advisory Group that separate CCC Recommendations should not be developed for UNSMs.

Ref. 89-036, Source: CCC

D. ORGANIZATIONS AND MEETINGS

Interregional co-operation** Representatives of the UN regional commissions (ECA, ECE, ECLAC, ESCWA , ESCAP) and UNCTAD met in Geneva on 12-13 October 1989 to discuss the implementation of ECOSOC Resolution 1989/118 on interregional co-operation in trade facilitation (see Ref. 89-030). The meeting noted that in spite of the variety of traditions and differences in international trade practices the results reached in the ECE region should continue to be expanded to other parts of the world. It was agreed that there should be a single proposal for an interregional project, incorporating four components (training, network of trade facilitation activities, UN/EDIFACT promotion and implementation, regional participation in trade facilitation work). On the basis of the agreed approach to the formulation of the draft proposal, the meeting estimated that the average annual budget necessary to implement the proposal would be in the range of 3,500,000 USD.

Ref. 89-037, Source: ECE

ISO: TC 154 ninth session*** This session took place on 11-15 September 1989 at the British Standard Institution headquarters in London (United Kingdom). Several resolutions were adopted. TC 154 recognized the importance of continuing its work on EDI, but as there was insufficient work to justify the existence of SC 3, this sub-committee should be disbanded. Future work on EDI would be undertaken by TC 154 as appropriate. In view of transfer of work on the "Conceptual Model for EDI" from TC 154/SC 3 to JTC 1/SWG-EDI and the continuing need for co-ordination in that area, the committee resolved to establish a liaison with JTC 1/SWG-EDI and further with JTC 1/SC 14,

READEX

TC 46/SC 4 and TC 104. The Committee also agreed to the minor revision of ISO 9735 "EDIFACT" previously agreed by UN/ECE/WP.4.

Ref. 89-038; Source: ECE

UN/EDIFACT Joint Rapporteurs' Team Meeting*** Some 120 experts from many industries and nearly all European countries, North America and New Zealand held a week-long meeting under the leadership of the UN/EDIFACT Rapporteurs to accelerate the now rapid expansion of UN/EDIFACT, the international standard for electronic data interchange (EDI). The approach of 1992 and the growing integration of world markets make it particularly appropriate that the meetings were hosted by the Commission of the European Communities (CEC) and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA). The Joint Rapporteurs' Meeting followed a very successful meeting of UN/ECE Working Party No.4 on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures at which 23 messages were approved for formal processing. The Brussels meeting significantly advanced the development and alignment of all messages and dealt with outstanding technical and procedural issues. The next UN/EDIFACT Joint Rapporteurs' Meeting will be held in April 1990 in Ottawa, Canada.

Ref. 89-030; Source: Western Europe EDIFACT Board Press Release, 1989-09-29

EEC: Electronic Data Interchange revolution** There was much talk of revolution at the Economic and Social Committee of the EEC, where the **Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) Conference: 1992 and Beyond**, hosted by the EEC, was held on 20-21 September 1989. The International Data Exchange association (IDEA) Secretary-General said that the full implementation of EDI will represent the "biggest change in how we trade since the Egyptians invented paper". Supporting this claim, he pointed to US Department of Transportation figures, suggesting that a document transfer currently costing 50 USD can be reduced to 7 USD. He also pointed out that the computer giant IBM claims to have already saved 60 mn USD by using EDI.

Ref. 89-040; Source: Eurotech Forum, October 1989, No.54.

EDI' 89 FRANCE*** About 300 participants from the public and private sector attended the first national EDI Conference which took place at Paris-La-Défense from 7 to 9 November 1989. Representatives of governmental agencies presented the various aspects of the French national policies in the field of EDI. Other lecturers addressed the legal, technical and commercial issues as well as the economic and financial benefits of EDI and the range of services offered by FRANCE TELECOM and by specialized networks. In some thirty half-day workshops, information was given on the implementation of EDI and EDIFACT in a number of industrial and commercial sectors. At the closing ceremony, the Minister for Civil Service and Administrative Reforms announced the creation of EDIFRANCE, an inter-departmental body which will co-ordinate EDI policies and standardization work and will promote the implementation of EDIFACT. More information on EDIFRANCE will be given in the next issue of TFN.

Ref. 89-041; Source: ECE

UN/EDIFACT Developments in North America** The North American EDIFACT Board (NA/EB) met from 6 to 8 November 1989 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. During these meetings, the process of technical assessment of UN/EDIFACT messages in North America was given a unified approach, and a workplan for 1990 was developed. This meeting saw the establishment of the EDIFACT Technical Assessment Group (ETAG) which will provide a centralized forum for the technical quality control of UN/EDIFACT messages in North America. The formation of this group represents, for the NA/EB, the next major step for UN/EDIFACT facilitation. ETAG will bring the full weight of North American technical expertise in UN/EDIFACT to bear on the work being done, and insure that the greatest level of quality is maintained throughout the process. The Delegates Liaison Task Group (DLTG) has finalized the 1990 workplan for UN/EDIFACT message development in North America, and has approved its document of operations and procedures for the future. The UN/EDIFACT Purchase Order message (ORDERS) was also reviewed to begin the final steps in the process that will take this message to the UN/ECE/WP.4 Meetings in March of 1990 with the proposal that it should be advanced to Status 2 as a full United Nations Standard Message (UNSM). This will set still another milestone along the road to international paperless trading through UN/EDIFACT.

Ref. 89-042; Source: North American EDIFACT Board (NA/EB).

Calendar of meetings[1/]

+89-11-20--22	ISO/IEC	JTC 1/SC 14 "Information technology/Representations of data elements" (Paris, France)
+90-03-12--16	ECE	Working Party on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures, thirty-first session, and its two Meetings of Experts, forty first sessions (Geneva, Switzerland)
+90-04-2--6	ISO/IEC	JTC 1/SC 2 "Information technology/ Character sets and information coding" (Washington, United States of America)
+90-05-10--11	ISO	TC 68/SC 4 "Banking and related financial services/Securities" (United States of America)
+90-05-14--18	ISO	TC 46/SC 2 "Information and documentation/Conversion of written languages" (Paris, France)
+90-05-14--18	ISO	TC 46/SC 9 "Information and documentation/Presentation, identification and description of documents" (Paris, France)
+90-05-15--18	ISO/IEC	JTC 1/SC 18 "Information technology/Text and office systems" (Paris, France)
+90-05-28--06-01	ISO/IEC	JTC 1/SC 1 "Information technology/Vocabulary" (Stockholm, Sweden)

+90-05-28--06-13	ISO/IEC	JTC 1/SC 21 "Information technology/Information retrieval, transfer and management for open systems interconnection (OSI)" (Seoul, Republic of Korea)
+90--05/06	ISO/IEC	JTC 1/SC 11 "Information technology/Flexible magnetic media for digital data interchange" (Geneva, Switzerland)
+90-06-26--28	ICC	Thirtieth ICC Congress (Hamburg, Federal Republic of Germany)
+90-09-17--21	ECE	Working Party on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures, thirty-second session, and its two Meetings of Experts, forty second sessions (Geneva, Switzerland)

Source to be consulted if more detailed information is desired.

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Asterisks indicate

***	Work accomplished, decisions, measures implemented, conventions, recommendations, standards, etc., adopted.
**	Report on work under way, proposals.
*	Work planned, projects under study.

Reference

Ref. 89-000 = Item identifier for communications to the secretariat

Source = Abbreviated source reference explained in the Bulletin.

1/ As communicated by the secretariat of the organizations.
+/ New item, or addition to, or change in previous information.

ANNEX

ISO: International Standards in process and published*** During the period 1 April-31 August 1989 the following International Standards relevant to trade facilitation were:

(a) Registered as draft proposals

DP 646	Information processing - ISO 7-bit coded character set for information interchange (Revision of ISO 646, 1983)
DP 1989	Programming languages - COBOL - Addendum 1: Intrinsic Functions
DP 2382-9	Information technology - Vocabulary - Part 9: Data Communication (Revision of ISO 2382-9, 1984)
DP 2382-17	Information technology - Vocabulary - Part 17: Databases
DP 2382-23	Information processing systems - Vocabulary - Part 23: Text processing
DP 4873	Information processing - ISO 8-bit code for information interchange - Structure and rules for implementation (Revision of ISO 4873, 1986)
DP 8649	Information processing systems - Open Systems Interconnection - Service definition for the Association Control Service Element -Addendum 1: Peer-entity authentication during association establishment
DP 8650	Information processing systems - Open Systems Interconnection - Protocol specification for the Association Control Service Element - Addendum 1: Peer-entity authentication during association establishment
DP 8650	Information processing systems - Open Systems Interconnection - Protocol specification for the Association Control Service Element - Addendum 2: PICS proforma
DP 8651-4	Information processing systems - Computer graphics - Graphical Kernel System (GKS) language bindings - Part 4:C
DP 9282-2	Information processing - Coded representation of pictures - Part 2: Incremental encoding of point lists in a 7-bit or 8-bit environment
DP 9834-6	Information processing systems - Open Systems Interconnection - Procedures for specific OSI Registration Authorities - Part 6: Registration of AP titles and AE titles
DP 9995-10	Information processing - Keyboard layouts for text and office systems - Part 1-: Alphanumeric section

DP 9995-11	Information processing - Keyboard layouts for text and office systems - Part 11, Alphanumeric zone of the alphanumeric section
DP 9995-50	Information processing - Keyboard layouts for text and office systems - Part 50, Editing section
DP 9995-51	Information processing - Keyboard layouts for text and office systems - Part 51, Cursor zone of the editing section
DP 9995-61	Information processing - Keyboard layouts for text and office systems - Part 61, Editing zones of the editing section
DP 10165-1	Information processing systems - Open Systems Interconnection - Management information services - Structure of management information - Part 1, Management information model
DP 10168-4	Information processing systems - Open Systems Interconnection - Conformance test suite for the session protocol - Part 4, Test management protocol specification
DP 10172	Information processing systems - Data communications - Network/transport protocol interworking function (Technical Report Type 2)
DP 10173	Information processing systems - Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) primary access connector at reference points S and T
DP 10175-1	Information processing - Text communication - Document printing application - Part 1, Abstract service definition and procedures
DP 10175-2	Information processing - Text communication - Document printing application - Part 2, Protocol specification
DP 10367	Information processing - Repertoire of standardized coded graphic character sets for use in 8-bit codes
DP 10373	Identification cards - Test methods
DP 10383	Codes for exchanges and regulated markets - Market Identifier Codes

(b) Circulated as draft International Standards for voting

DIS 2593	Information technology - Data communication - 34-pole DTE/DCE interface connector and contact number assignments (vote terminates on 1989-11-25)
DIS 8208, 1987/DAD 1	Information processing systems - Data communications - X25 packet level protocol for data terminal equipment - Addendum 1, Alternative logical channel identifier assignment (vote terminated on 1989-09-01)

DIS 8823: 1988/DAD 1 — Information processing systems - Open Systems Interconnection - Connection oriented presentation protocol specification - Addendum 1: Protocol Implementation Conformance Statement (PICS) proforma (vote terminates on 1989-12-22)

DIS 8878: 1987/DAD 1 — Information processing systems - Data communications - Use of X25 to provide the OSI connection-mode network service - Addendum 1: Protection and priority (vote terminates on 1990-01-20)

DIS 8878: 1987/DAD 2 — Information processing systems - Data communications - Use of X25 to provide the OSI connection-mode network service - Addendum 2: Use of an X.25 PVC to provide the OS'CONS (vote terminates on 1990-01-20)

DIS 8897: 1987/DAD 1 — Information processing systems - Interface connector and contact assignment for ISDN basic access located at reference points S and T - Addendum 1: (vote terminates on 1989-11-25)

DIS 9171-1 — Information technology - 130 mm optical-disk cartridge, write-once, for information interchange - Part 1: Unrecorded optical disk cartridge (vote terminated on 1989-08-25)

DIS 9171-2 — Information technology - 130 mm optical-disk cartridge, write-once, for information interchange - Part 2: Recording format (vote terminated on 1989-08-25)

DIS 9281-1.2 — Information technology - Picture coding methods - Part 1: Identification (vote terminated on 1989-11-10)

DIS 9646-1 — Information technology - OSI conformance testing methodology and framework - Part 1: General concepts (vote terminated on 1989-10-27)

DIS 9646-2 — Information technology - OSI conformance testing methodology and framework - Part 2: Abstract test suite specification (vote terminated on 1989-10-27)

DIS 9646-4 — Information technology - OSI conformance testing methodology and framework - Part 4: Test realization (vote terminates on 1989-12-22)

DIS 9646-5 — Information technology - OSI conformance testing methodology and framework - Part 5: Requirements on test laboratories and clients for the conformance assessment process (vote terminates on 1989-12-22)

DIS 9804 — Information processing systems - Open Systems Interconnection - Service definition for the Commitment, Concurrency and Recovery service element (vote terminated on 1989-09-08)

DIS 9805 Information processing systems - Open Systems Interconnection - Protocol specification for the Commitment, Concurrency and Recovery service element (vote terminated on 198-09-08)

DIS 10031-1 Information technology - Text communication - Distributed-office-applications model - Part 1: General model (vote terminates on 1989-11-18)

DIS 10031-2 Information technology - Text communication - Distributed-office-applications model - Part 2: Referenced data transfer (vote terminates on 1989-11-18)

DIS 10126-1 Banking - Procedures for message encipherment (wholesale) - Part 1: General principles (vote terminates on 1990-01-06)

DIS 10126-2 Banking - Procedures for message encipherment (wholesale) - Part 2: Algorithms (vote terminates on 1090-12-29)

DIS 10222 Information processing systems - Enhanced Small Device Interface (vote terminates on 1989-12-08)

DIS 10116 Information processing - Modes of operation for an n-bit block cipher algorithm (vote terminates on 1990-03-07)

(c) Published

ISO 2382-5: 1989 Information processing systems - Vocabulary - Part 05: Representation of data

ISO 2382-19: 1989 Information processing systems - Vocabulary - Part 19: Analog computing

ISO 6937-2: 1989 Duplicators and document copying machines

ISO 6937-2: 1983/Add.1 Information processing - Coded character sets for text communication - Part 2: Latin alphabetic and non-alphabetic graphic characters - Addendum 1

ISO 8473:1989 Information processing systems - Data communications - Protocol for providing the connectionless-mode network service - Addendum 3: Provision of the underlying service assumed by ISO 8473 over subnetworks which provide the OSI data link service

ISO/IEC 8631: 1989 Information technology - Program constructs and conventions for their representation

ISO 9074:1989 Information processing systems - Open Systems Interconnection - Estelle: A formal descripition technique based on an extended state transition model

ISO 8649:1988 Information processing systems - Open Systems Interconnection - Service definition for the Association Control Service Element

ISO 8650:1988	Information processing systems - Open Systems Interconnection - Protocol specification for the Association Control Service Element
ISO 8831:1989	Information processing systems - Open Systems Interconnection - Job transfer and manipulation concepts and services
ISO 8832:1989	Information processing systems - Open Systems Interconnection - Specification of the Basic Class Protocol for Job Transfer and Manipulation
ISO/IEC 8859-9:1989	Information processing - 8-bit single-byte coded graphic character sets - Part 9: Latin alphabet No.5
ISO 9314-2: 1989	Information processing systems - Fibre Distributed Data Interface (FDDI) - Part 2: Token Ring Media Access Control (MAC)
ISO 9315:1989	Information processing systems - Interface between flexible disk cartridge drives and their host controllers
ISO 9316:1989	Information processing systems - Small Computer System Interface (SCSI)
ISO 9496:1989	CCITT high level language (CHILL)

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TRADE FACILITATION NEWS

A. FORMALITIES AND PROCEDURES

CCC: Washington Declaration** At its July 1989 Session the Customs Co-operation Council adopted the "Washington Declaration", which identifies a number of fields in which the Council should play a more active role in the areas of automation and EDI. They include, in particular:

- launching special programmes for those Members still dependent on paper records, to assist them in streamlining current procedures and adopting progressively automated techniques;

- urging Members now using automation to move towards adoption of full electronic data interchange;

- identifying standard Customs requirements for EDI in all international fora;

- identifying Members' training needs in automation and seeking to arrange for this training with the assistance, where necessary, of Member administrations and other interntational organizations.

Although the Washington Declaration is mainly intended for identifying the role of the CCC in the years to come and the tasks to be undertaken by its Permanent Technical Committee and ADP Sub-Committee, it contains provisions which are of direct interest to international trade facilitation. The text of the declaration has been reproduced in document TRADE/WP.4/INF.111 dated 29 January 1990.

Ref.: 90-001; Source: ECE.

Deadline for contributions
Participants are requested to transmit their contributions to Trade Facilitation News No.71 by 15 June 1990

GE.90-31133 /1982c

ECE: Publication on transport of dangerous goods *** The ECE has published new editions of two widely appreciated technical books which provide all-important information on regulations concerning the transport of dangerous goods. Both publications aim at facilitating the transport of dangerous goods without compromising standards of safety.

The UN Orange Book (ST/SG/AC.10/1/Rev.6), which contains the recommendations formulated by the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods of the UN Economic and Social Council, is now available in English and French. Versions in Arabic, Chinese, Russian and Spanish will be published later. Although the recommendations are addressed primarily to national and international regulatory authorities in order to promote global harmonization of the provisions applicable to transport by air, rail, road, sea and inland waterways, manufacturers and shippers of dangerous goods and of packaging materials will find here important information concerning future developments.

The European Agreement (ECE/TRANS/80) concerning the international carriage of dangerous goods by road (ADR) in the UN/ECE region - comprising all the countries of Europe, the United States and the Canada - is also published in a revised edition. This agreement, formulated and kept up to date by the ECE Inland Transport Committee, is becoming increasingly important as governments and the European Communities consider implementing its technical provisions not only in international transport but also in domestic movements of dangerous goods.

Ref.: 90-002; Source: ECE, Press release ECE/TRANS/1/Rev.1.

US: UN/EDIFACT Independent Assessment Study reveals need for information, education, training** Findings of an independent study on UN/EDIFACT were recently released by the Electronic Data Interchange Association (EDIA). The findings concluded that the greatest need that currently exists in this arena is for information, education and training, and that users expect EDI associations to meet that need.

The study was conducted by INPUT, a market research firm that specializes in research of EDI-related issues. The independent study was commissioned by EDIA because of an identified need among EDI users which reflected concerns about the role of EDIFACT in the overall EDI framework, and about its future.

Methodology for the study included in-depth reviews of secondary information on the topic, interviews with EDI users in North America (specifically with users of UN/EDIFACT) and leading vendors of EDI services and software, particularly those that do business internationally. The study was designed to provide information that will assist the EDI user community in determining applicability of EDIFACT to their individual situations, based on a factual foundation. Results were presented for the first time at the twenty-first National EDI Systems Conference and Exhibit, held from 12 to 14 December in Washington, D.C.

Ref.: 90-003; Source: EDIA Press Release, 7 February 1990

B. DOCUMENTATION, STANDARDS AND ALIGNED FORMS

CCC: Single Goods Declaration (SGD)* In 1988 the CCC started working on a multi-purpose Customs Goods declaration for worldwide use, incorporating a customs entry for import, export and customs transit. The intention was to design a document which could be used to declare a consignment for export in the country of exportation, to carry it under Customs transit to the country of destination and to clear it for import in that country. The SGD would be an intermediate solution towards the use of EDI. At its fifth meeting, the CCC Experts Group on the Single Goods Declaration (8-12 January 1990) continued discussing a draft SGD and the Explanatory Notes on data elements for the SGD. This Group agreed to finalize these subjects at the sixth meeting (26 February-02 March 1990) to submit them for approval to the Permanent Technical Committee in May 1990 and to the CCC Council in June 1990. The work on the SGD Convention will start immediately after the CCC Council sessions.

Ref. 90-004; Source: ECE and CCC.

ISO: New leaflets on information handling*** The ISO recently issued three new information leaflets about International Standards concerning Open Systems Interconnection (OSI), Compact Disk-Read-Only-Memory (CD-ROM) and Standard Generalized Markup Language (SGML). Copies of the leaflets and International Standards concerned may be obtained from the ISO Central Secretariat, Case Postale 56, 1 rue de Varembé - CH-1211 Geneva 20.

Re. 90-005; Source: ECE.

ISO: International Standards in process and published*** During the period 1 April-31August 1989, twenty-one International Standards relevant to trade facilitation were registered as draft proposals, fifteen were circulated as draft International Standards for voting and thirty-two were published. The complete list will be published in a subsequent issue of TFN.

Ref. 90-006; Source: ISO Bulletins, Vol.20, Nos 11-12, 1989;
Vol.21 Nos 1-2, 1990.

C. DATA TECHNIQUES, TERMINOLOGY, CODES

US: Customs to utilize EDIFACT messages in operational tests** The US Customs Service reported it will run final tests of International electronic Customs' messages early this year using the increasingly popular United Nation's EDIFACT Standards. Several private corporations have been conducting trials with US Customs using a version of the proposed CUSDEC EDIFACT Customs Declaration Message (CUSDEC). These experiments, which were designed to consolidate entry, invoice and summary information into one electronic document, have proven successful as have the CUSRES responses (CUSRES). US Customs will work with ASC12, the North American EDIFACT Board, the Customs Co-operation Council and the UN both to ensure CUSDEC and CUSRES stability and to obtain full UNSM (United Nations Standard Message) Status 2. Part of US Customs' plan to promote the use of EDIFACT worldwide entails piloting EDIFACT exchanges in concert with customs services from other nations. US Customs will also promote EDIFACT awareness within the Federal government and the international trade community. See also Ref. 89-036 (TRADE/WP.4/TFN.69).

Ref. 90-007; Source: News, U.S. Customs Service, January 12, 1990.

UN/EDIFACT - Electronic communication with national Customs services - The Swedish case** At its thirtieth session (September 1989), the UN/ECE WP.4 adopted for trial use two standard Customs messages called CUSDEC (Customs declaration) and CUSRES (Customs response) (TFN 89-034); both messages are supported by the Customs Co-operation Council (TFN 89-036)and will be used by national administrations. In Sweden, the Customs Department has chosen to work with a company which will provide an external recipient function, instead of creating a purely Customs organization for administering EDI flows between companies and the Customs computer system. The Transport Data Link (TDL) Company in Göteborg will be responsible for receiving CUSDEC messages, performing technical control, safety copying, logging, issuing of receipt, and placing the messages in the Customs mailbox in TDL. The Swedish Customs EDI system TDS, due to start in June 1990, will process only export messages during the first year. It is expected that over 100 0000 messages will be interchanged in 1990, over one million in 1991 and 7.4 millions in 1994.

Ref. 90-008; Source: SWEPRO News, No.14/1989.

United Kingdom: Launching of an EDI trade payments network "PAYNET"** International Network Services Ltd. (INS) and National Westminster Bank Plc have announced the development of an EDI trade payments product PAYNET. EDI users will be able to send a payment order to the bank in EDIFACT format (PAYORD), together with a remittance advice (REMADV). Upon receipt of the payment instruction, the bank will return a payment confirmation (debit advice DEBADV) to the originator and a credit advice (CREADV), together with any original remittance advice, to the beneficiary. In the initial service, a PC-based security application will be provided to users to authorize the release of each payment. The security application will also enable the recipient bank to authenticate the message on arrival.

Ref. 90-009; Source: EDI User, Issue No.13, November 1989.

United Kingdom: First dedicated EDI network for freight forwarding*** The British International Freight Association (BIFA) announces the setting up of a Freight Forwarders' Network (FFN). Field trials for the new system have started in November 1989. BIFA claims that FFN offers a complete EDI service, with six messages already available (Shipping instruction, pre-booking advice, firm booking, bill of lading, invoice/schedule of charges and SAD for Customs entry). FFN comprises a central EDI server which supports EDIFACT messages, access methods through networks or direct leased line, and end user software, including translation into and out of EDIFACT.

Ref. 90-010; Source: EDI User, Issue No.13, November 1989.

ECE: UNSMs under development** By the end of March 1990 thirty-one draft UNSM proposals had been officially circulated for information (Status 0), four draft UNSMs and a Message Framework had been adopted for formal trial (Status 1) and two UNSMs (INVOIC and ORDERS) had been approved as ECE/WP.4 Recommendation (Status 2). See complete list in Annex. Besides, 45 other messages, candidates for UNSMs are being developed by several international and national organizations within the UN/EDIFACT machinery.

Ref. 90-011; Source: ECE.

D. ORGANIZATIONS AND MEETINGS

UN/ESCAP Meeting of national Trade Facilitation bodies, Manila, 29 January-02 February 1990*** Representatives from twenty-two countries attended the Second Meeting of National Trade Facilitation Bodies organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in co-operation with UNCTAD/FALPRO and the CCC, and with participation by the UN/ECE secretariat. The meeting considered issues related to Interregional co-operation on Trade Facilitation, the creation of an ESCAP Trade Facilitation network, and particular facilitation matters of interest to participants. Recent developments in Trade and Customs facilitation were brought to the attention of the Meeting and information was given on the situation regarding trade facilitation in the participating countries. Future activities concerning UN/EDIFACT development and implementation were discussed, including future nomination of Rapporteurs to be appointed by WP.4. A questionnaire on the relevance of EDI development, possible technical and legal obstacles to EDI, and the levels of awareness and implementation of EDI within the ESCAP Region will be issued to all ESCAP countries.

Ref. 90-012; Source: ECE

New TEDIS - Joint European Venture** In early December the Swedish government signed the treaty with the EC Council that will regulate Swedish participation in the TEDIS programme. A corresponding treaty was simultaneously signed by the other EFTA-countries and that makes TEDIS a joint European project. TEDIS stands for Trade Electronic Data Interchange Systems and is best described as an attempt to co-ordinate the many EDI-projects (Like ODETTE, EDIFICE and CEFIC), that have come up in Europe during the last years.

Ref. 90-013; Source: SWEPRO news No.14/1989.

Plan is set for Asian Phone Cable* Five telecommunications companies plan to lay an optical-fiber cable connecting Japan, Hong Kong and Singapore by the end of 1993 to meet increasing communications demand in the region. The five companies are Hong Kong Telecommunications Ltd., Cable & Wireless Hong Kong Ltd., Telecommunication Authority of Singapore, U.S. Sprint Communications Co., Mercury Communications Ltd. of Britain and International Digital Communications Inc. of Japan. Construction of the 6,300 kilometer (3,906 mile) cable, called the Asia Pacific Cable, or ASPAC, will start by the end of 1992 and is expected to begin operating around the middle of 1993. The group also plans to discuss with the Chinese government the extension of ASPAC to Shanghai at some point.

Ref. 90-014; Source: International Herald Tribune, 1990-02-15.

No deal reached on Trans-Siberia Cable Project* Nine telecommunications companies reached no significant agreement in talks at the end of January 1990 on laying the first trans-Siberian optical-fiber cable. The Tokyo session was the eighth round of talks. The companies will meet again in Munich in late March. The firms are divided over cost and potential demand for the Europe-Japan telecommunications link. Establishment of a new joint venture and extension of the cable to Eastern Europe will be discussed at Munich. Participating in the Tokyo talks were the Soviet Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications; a unit of US West Inc.; Great Northern Telegraph Co. of Denmark; Telecom Denmark; Società Finanziaria Telefonica of Italy; British

Telecommunications PLC; Deutsche Bundespost; and Overseas Telecommunications Corp. of Australia. France Telecom and Telefonica de Espana have asked to join the project but have not been accepted.

Ref. 90-015; Source: International Herald Tribune, 1990-02-01.

CCC: SITA proposal for a Customs data communications network* Having started more than 40 years ago with the provision of communications, data processing services and assistance to airlines and travel agencies throughout the world, SITA (Société internationale de télécommunications aéronautiques) is now moving towards trade applications: connection of Customs systems and immigration services such as US Customs and Australian Customs through the Tradegate Community System; connection in a pilot phase of one UNCTAD/ASYCUDA system; signature of a memorandum of understanding with FIATA to provide a worldwide trade network; connection to the SITA network of new generation community systems, such as TRADENET in Singapore. SITA is now offering the CCC to use its facilities to constitute a private customs network providing the three following kinds of services: conversion of telecommunications protocols and of languages; management of the network; function specific to the Customs community. The proposal will be considered at a meeting of the CCC EDI Advisory Group, in March 1990.

Ref. 90-016; Source: CCC.

ECE: WP.4 thirty-first session*** At its thirty-first session, held from 12 to 16 March 1990, the UN/ECE Working Party on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures (WP.4) adopted a Recommendation (Status 2) for UNSM ORDERS which is now recommended for practical use. As a result of UNSM ORDERS moving to Status 2 WP.4 approved the appropriate changes to UNSM INVOIC (Status 2). Six Messages under preparation in the banking sector (PAYORD - Payment Order, PAYEXT - Extended Payment Order, DEBADV - Debit Advice, CREADV - Credit Advice, CREEXT - Extended Credit Advice and DOCAPP - Documentary credit application and six IFTMFR derived messages (IFTMBP - Provisional booking, IFTMBF - Firm booking, IFTMBC - Booking confirmation, IFTMIN - Instruction; IFTMCS - Instruction contract status, IFTMAN - Arrival Notice) have been transmitted by the UN/EDIFACT Rapporteurs for information (Status 0). WP.4 has appointed a UN/EDIFACT Rapporteur, Mr. H. Bates (Australia), for Australia, New Zealand and any countries of the region wishing to be associated with this function. The draft Recommendation No.23 "Freight Cost Code" has been also approved.

Ref. 90-017; Source: ECE.

Calendar of meetings[1/]

90-04-2--6	ISO/IEC	JTC 1/SC 2 "Information technology/ Character sets and information coding" (Washington, United States of America)
+90-04-26--27	ISO/IEC	JTC 1/SC 27 "Information technology/Security techniques" (Stockholm, Sweden)
90-05-10--11	ISO	TC 68/SC 4 "Banking and related financial services/Securities" (United States of America)

90-05-14--18	ISO	TC 46/SC 2 "Information and documentation/Conversion of written languages" (Paris, France)
90-05-14--18	ISO	TC 46/SC 9 "Information and documentation/Presentation, identification and description of documents" (Paris, France)
90-05-15--18	ISO/IEC	JTC 1/SC 18 "Information technology/Text and office systems" (Paris, France)
90-05-28--06-01	ISO/IEC	JTC 1/SC 1 "Information technology/Vocabulary" (Stockholm, Sweden)
90-05-28--06-13	ISO/IEC	JTC 1/SC 21 "Information technology/Information retrieval, transfer and management for open systems interconnection (OSI)" (Seoul, Republic of Korea)
90--05/06	ISO/IEC	JTC 1/SC 11 "Information technology/Flexible magnetic media for digital data interchange" (Geneva, Switzerland)
+90-05-29--31	COMPAT	European Computer Aided Trade Conference (Madrid, Spain)
90-06-26--28	ICC	Thirtieth ICC Congress (Hamburg, Federal Republic of Germany)
90-09-17--21	ECE	Working Party on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures, thirty-second session, and its two Meetings of Experts, forty second sessions (Geneva, Switzerland)

Source to be consulted if more detailed information is desired:

CCC

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Asterisks indicate

*** Work accomplished, decisions, measures implemented, conventions, recommendations, standards, etc., adopted.

** Report on work under way, proposals.

* Work planned, projects under study.

Reference

Ref. 89-000 = Item identifier for communications to the secretariat

Source = Abbreviated source reference explained in the Bulletin.

1/ As communicated by the secretariat of the organizations.
+/ New item, or addition to, or change in previous information.

ANNEX

UN/EDIFACT MESSAGES: WP.4 STATUS SUMMARY - MARCH 1990

MESSAGES		DOCUMENT SYMBOL	STATUS*
INVOIC -	Commercial Invoice	TRADE/WP.4/R.527 TRADE/WP.4/R.527/Rev.1	2
ORDERS -	Purchase Order	TRADE/WP.4/R.586 TRADE/WP.4/R.586/Corr.1	2
CONTRL -	Acknowledgement/Rejection Advice	TRADE/WP.4/R.589	1
CUSDEC -	Customs Declaration	TRADE/WP.4/R.590 TRADE/WP.4/R.590/Corr.1 TRADE/WP.4/R.590/Add.1	1
CUSRES -	Customs Response	TRADE/WP.4/R.591 TRADE/WP.4/R.591/Add.1	1
IFTMFR -	International Forwarding and Transport Message Framework (Six derived messages at status 0 se below IFTMAN, IFTMBC, IFTMBF, IFTMBP, IFTMCS, IFTMIN)	TRADE/WP.4/R.592/Rev.1 TRADE/WP.4/R.592/Rev.1/Corr.2 TRADE/WP.4/R.590/Rev.1/Add.1 TRADE/WP.4/R.590/Rev.1/Add.2	1
QALITY -	Quality Data Message	TRADE/WP.4/R.583 TRADE/WP.4/R.583/Corr.1	1
CREADV -	Credit Advice	TRADE/WP.4/R.646	0
CREEXT -	Extended Credit Advice	TRADE/WP.4/R.647	0
CURRAC -	Current Account	TRADE/WP.4/R.594 TRADE/WP.4/R.594/Corr.1	0
DEBADV -	Debit Advice	TRADE/WP.4/R.645	0
DELFOR -	Delivery Schedule	TRADE/WP.4/R.617	0
DELJIT -	Just-In-Time Delivery	TRADE/WP.4/R.618	0
DESADV -	Despatch Advice	TRADE/WP.4/R.475	0
DOCAPP -	Documentary Credit Application	-	0
EDIMAR -	(International Maritime Organization IMO). Five Messages: - General Declaration - Ship's Store Declaration - Crew's Effects Declaration - Crew List - Passenger List	TRADE/WP.4/R.572	0
GENRAL -	General Message	-	0
IFTMAN -	IFTM Arrival Notice	TRADE/WP.4/R.665	0
IFTMBC -	IFTM Booking Confirmation	TRADE/WP.4/R.662	0
IFTMBF -	IFTM Booking Firm	TRADE/WP.4/R.661	0
IFTMBP -	IFTM Booking Provisional	TRADE/WP.4/R.660	0
IFTMCS -	IFTM Instruction Contract Status	TRADE/WP.4/R.664	0
IFTMIN -	IFTM Instruction	TRADE/WP.4/R.663	0
ORDRSP -	Purchase Order Response	TRADE/WP.4/R.581	0

*Status: 2 = UNSM
1 = Draft for formal trial
0 = Draft document

MESSAGES		DOCUMENT SYMBOL	STATUS
ORDCHG -	Purchase Order Change Request	TRADE/WP.4/R.582	0
PARTIN -	Party Information	TRADE/WP.4/R.619	0
PAYEXT -	Extended Payment Order	TRADE/WP.4/R.644	0
PAYORD -	Payment Order	TRADE/WP.4/R.643	0
PRICAT -	Price/Sales Catalogue	TRADE/WP.4/R.620	0
QUOTES -	Quote	TRADE/WP.4/R.623	0
REINAC -	Reinsurance Account	TRADE/WP.4/R.595 TRADE/WP.4/R.595/Corr.1	0
REMADV -	Remittance Advice	TRADE/WP.4/R.621	0
REQOTE -	Request for Quote	TRADE/WP.4/R.622	0
STATAC -	Statement of Account	TRADE/WP.4/R.624	0

UNSM CANDIDATES UNDER DEVELOPMENT

BAPLAN -	Bay Plan	-	-
CALINF -	Call Information	-	-
CEDEX -	Freight Container Messages. Nine Messages:		
	- On-Hire Interchange	-	-
	- Off-Hire Interchange	-	-
	- Interchange	-	-
	- Damage Description	-	-
	- Work Estimate	-	-
	- Third Party Claim	-	-
	- Work Tender Request	-	-
	- Work Order	-	-
	- Work Cost Estimate	-	-
CHGSPE -	Change to Product Specification	-	-
COARRI -	Container Arrival	-	-
CODEPA -	Container Departure	-	-
COFORM -	Construction Pricing Formula	-	-
COOVLA -	Container Overlanded	-	-
COPDEM -	Container Pre-departure with Guidelines	-	-
COPLAN -	Construction Planning	-	-
COPRAR -	Container Pre-arrival	-	-
COPRDP -	Container Pre-departure	-	-
CORESP -	Construction Responsibility	-	-
COSHLA -	Container Shortlanded	-	-
COVALU -	Construction Value	-	-
DIRDEF -	EDIFACT Directory Definition	-	-
DIRMNT -	Directory Maintenance	-	-
DIRSET -	Directory Set	-	-
DISRPT -	Distribution Report	-	-
INVINQ -	Inventory Inquiry/Advice	-	-
INVRPT -	Inventory Report	-	-
NONCON -	Non-Conformance	-	-
ORDINQ -	Order Status Inquiry	-	-
ORDREP -	Order Status Report	-	-
ORDSTA -	Order Status	-	-
PAYREM -	Overdue Payment Reminder	-	-
PRDSPE -	Product Specification	-	-
PROTRA -	Product Transfer and Resale	-	-

MESSAGES		DOCUMENT SYMBOL	STATUS*
RECADV -	Receiving Advice	-	-
REGDAT -	Regulatory Data	-	-
REPRIN -	Request for Product Information	-	-
RESSPE -	Response to Specification	-	-
STATUS -	Consignment Status Report	-	-
TAXCON -	Tax Control	-	-
TRASTA -	Trade Statistical Information	-	-
VESDEP -	Vessel Departure	-	-
WARDAT -	Warranty Data	-	-

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR EUROPE

UNITED NATIONS
CONFERENCE ON TRADE
AND DEVELOPMENT

Trade Facilitation

TRADE/WP.4/TFN.71
TD/B/FAL/TFN.71
3 July 1990

Original: ENGLISH

TRADE FACILITATION NEWS

A. FORMALITIES AND PROCEDURES

ECE: Decision on UN/EDIFACT*** At its 45th session, in April 1990, the Economic Commission for Europe adopted a decision (J45) concerning UN/EDIFACT. Recalling its decision on the same subject, at its 44th session in April 1989 (see TRADE/WP.4/TFN.68, ref. 89-016), and reaffirming the importance of UN/EDIFACT as a standard that will permit unprecedented increases in efficiency and financial savings in the conduct of international trade, the Commission expressed its appreciation to the secretariat and to the Working Party on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures for undertaking and completing the analysis to estimate resources required to develop and maintain UN/EDIFACT and endorsed the recommendation of the Working Party in regard to allocation of resources to UN/EDIFACT.

Ref. 90-018; Source: ECE.

GATT: PSI discussion** At the meeting of the Non-Tariff Measures Group on the 21st of March it was noted that work on new multilateral rules on preshipment inspection (PSI) had progressed to the point where the Group might start preparing common negotiating texts. The European Community and Zaire both tabled draft legal texts on PSI. Emphasizing that PSI should not give rise to unnecessary trade obstacles, the EC proposed that certain cases should be exempted from PSI, for example low value shipments and prices resulting from open tendering procedures, commodities subject to wide or frequent price changes, shipments forming part of a turnkey contract, etc. Zaire's proposal stressed that PSI was not a non-tariff barrier and could

Deadline for contributions
Participants are requested to transmit their contributions to Trade Facilitation News No.71 by 15 September 1990

GE.90-32010 /1982c

facilitate trade by deterring over-invoicing and under-invoicing, thereby minimizing opportunities for capital flight, fraud, discriminatory pricing and evasion of tax and customs duty; however it agreed that PSI programmes should not give rise to unnecessary delays. The group agreed to establish an informal drafting body which would draw up a draft text of a possible PSI agreement which would be the basis of negotiations.

Ref. 90-019; Source: GATT Newsletter, No.70, April 1990.

IMO: 1965 Facilitation Convention amended*** The purpose of this Convention is to facilitate maritime transport by simplifying and minimizing the formalities, documentary requirements and procedures associated with the arrival, stay and departure of ships engaged on international voyages. It was originally developed by IMO to meet growing international concern about excessive documents required for merchant shipping. The amendments affect a number of the standards and recommended practices that are annexed to the Convention. They deal with a number of issues that have caused concern in the international shipping community in recent years including the prevention of unlawful acts against the safety of maritime traffic and other security measures; The prevention of illicit drugs trafficking; return of stowaways; the use of automatic data processing (ADP); maritime facilities and services for elderly and disabled passengers and for passengers who have impaired vision or hearing. One amendment recommends the establishment of national maritime facilitation committees by each Contracting Government to co-ordinate the adoption and implementation of facilitation measures. The amendments were adopted by the Facilitation Committee at its 19th session (30 April - 4 May) and will enter into force on 1 September 1991 unless by 1 June 1991 they are rejected by one-third of Contracting Parties.

Ref. 90-020; Source: IMO.

B. DOCUMENTATION, STANDARDS AND ALIGNED FORMS

ISO: International Standards in process and published*** During the period 2 January - 27 April 1990, twenty International Standards relevant to trade facilitation were registered as committee drafts, thirty-seven were circulated as draft International Standards for voting and sixteen were published. The complete list is available from the ECE secretariat. (See also Ref. 90-022 in this issue). In future the secretariat plans to set up a local data base containing all ISO International Standards relevant to trade facilitation. The possibility to integrate this data base into the UN/EDIFACT Reference Data Base (UN/EDIFACT RDB) will be considered.

Ref. 90-021; Source: ISO Bulletins, Vol.21, Nos.3-6, 1990, and ECE.

OPEN SYSTEM INTERCONNECTION (OSI): Information service for ISO Standards*** By agreement with ANSI and DIN, OMNICOM has set up a "tracking service" that enables users to receive all new Draft Proposals, Draft International Standards and published ISO Standards for the various OSI layers. The following categories are covered by the information service:

- OSI Reference model (ISO 7498 series)
- the seven OSI layers
- Local area networks (ISO 8802 series)
- OSI Directory services

- OSI Management
- Conformance testing
- Computer graphics
- Message Handling Systems (MOTIS/RTS/ROS/DOA/DFR)
- Office Document Architecture (ODA)
- CEN/CENELEC functional standards
- OSI Registration Authority Procedures (ISO 9834 series)
- Standard Generalized Markup Language (SGML)
- Formal Description Languages (Estelle and LOTOS)
- Database Languages SQL and NDL, IRDS and Remote Database Access (RDA)
- ISO Functional Standards (TR 10 000 series)
- Data Encryption.

For information, contact:
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Ref. 90-022; Source: ECE.

CCC: Single Goods Declaration (SGD)** The CCC Permanent Technical Committee, at its 143rd and 144th sessions (7-11 May 1990, Brussels), adopted the model Single Goods Declaration as well as draft Council Recommendation to launch the SGD internationally. The SGD is capable of being used either as a national import, export or Customs transit Goods declaration or as an international Goods declaration between two or more countries having agreed to use it. The draft Recommendation, containing guidance for countries wishing to conclude such an agreement will be submitted to the forthcoming session of the Council for approval. The Committee instructed the Expert Group on this matter to start work on the SGD Convention.

Ref. 90-023; Source: CCC.

C. DATA TECHNIQUES, TERMINOLOGY, CODES

BIMCO: Setting up of a global communications network** The Baltic and International Maritime Council (BIMCO) is setting up a network for the maritime industry that will go into service in September 1990. The BIMCO Maritime Community Network will initially have hubs in London, Oslo, Copenhagen, Piraeus, Hamburg, Paris, Hong Kong, and New York, through which subscribers will be able to access databases, send telexes, facsimiles, E-mail or EDI messages, hold conference calls or access maritime communication services managed by the International Maritime Satellite Organization INMARSAT. The long-term goal is to estabish 69 communication hubs around the world and to negotiate gateways with other networks such as port community systems and the networks set up by major shipping companies. The network, wholly owned by BIMCO subscribers, will be supplied and managed by DIGITAL Equipment Corporation. A BIMCO sub-committee is currently working on a draft Bill of Lading message that will be submitted for processing within the UN/EDIFACT Rapporteurs machinery.

Ref. 90-024; Source: Journal of Commerce, 3 May 1990.

First step towards a trans-Pacific EDI network** Port Authorities of Singapore and Seattle have recently concluded a memorandum of understanding concerning electronic data interchange on ship schedules and on the positioning of containers aboard ships. EDI, based on UN/EDIFACT messages being developed, is expected to start before the end of the Summer 1990. Data will be interchanged using the same carrier Singapore has used for other EDI projects, with Seattle linked to Singapore via Hong Kong. This will make it possible for Seattle to expand its system to other Asian ports with feeder connections with the trunk line between Seatle and Hong Kong. For the future, Seattle is considering the development of an international satellite network, or Teleport, for movement of EDI messages.

Ref. 90-025; Source: Journal of Commerce, 11 April 1990.

UN/EDIFACT Reinsurance and Insurance messages in a live environment** RINET, the Reinsurance and Insurance Network has recently delivered a PC Workstation application software to enable 28 companies participating in a pilot test to exchange their accounting data using the UN/EDIFACT REINAC and CURRAC messages. The 28 have identified target dates for migrating from test to productive use of EDI. Trading partners will verify that accounts related to actual treaties can now be sent exclusively via the network and that the system of paper accounts in parallel can be dispensed with.

Ref. 90-026; Source: RINET News, Issue No. 5 - April 1990.

UN/EDIFACT for information interchange among Health services and industries** In March 1990, Health services and health care industries from eighteen West European countries created EMEDI, the European Medical Electronic Data Interchange Group which will develop messages based on UN/EDIFACT. Co-operation in health care becomes more international; using UN/EDIFACT as a common language will permit to swap information on complex medical technologies as well as on new drugs that offer ever increasing potential in health care. EMEDI envisages to use EDI to transfer medical data in textual form as well as in the form of graphic images. EMEDI is backed by the TEDIS Project of the European Communities.

Ref. 90-027; Source; Journal of Commerce, 5 April 1990.

Hong Kong: Launching of the Shared Project for EDI (SPEDI)** The Hong Kong Government announced on 20 March 1990 the setting up of a joint public and private sector initiative to study the creation of Community-wide EDI facilities. SPEDI will be jointly funded by Government and Tradelink. The Project will develop a costed business proposal and technical specification for a range of shared EDI facilities which would include an initial EDI service centered around a group of Government and business transactions, as well as offering other facilities such as translation between different EDI standards and low cost access methods for smaller traders. SPEDI will also address EDIFACT message development to meet Hong Kong's EDI needs. The outcome of SPEDI should provide the Hong Kong Government with a basis for deciding the scope of any shared EDI facilities, by whom it should be developed and managed and how it should be regulated.

Ref. 90-028; Source: TRADELINK EDI Newsletter No.6, April/May 1990.

UN/EDIFACT Telephone Billing*** From Spring 1990 the German Post Office (Deutsche Bundespost) has been sending its customers telephone bills electronically using a subset of the UN/EDIFACT Commercial Invoice UNSM. The pilot project includes initially seven large-scale companies but is open on application to all companies receiving at least 100 telephone bills a month. This is an important implementation of UN/EDIFACT in the public sphere in what may be termed a "telecommunications-friendly" environment and looks set to expand rapidly.

Ref. 90-029; Source: EDIFACTs, The Bulletin of the Western European EDIFACT Board, Issue 4, 1990.

D. ORGANIZATIONS AND MEETINGS

UN/EDIFACT Joint Rapporteurs Team Meeting*** Over 250 delegates from 18 nations and many international and governmental bodies worked together to advance development of UN/EDIFACT. The meeting took place in Ottawa from 23 to 27 April 1990 and was hosted by the Department of External Affairs and International Trade, Department of Communications and the Treasury Board of Canada. Mr. Donald CAMPBELL, Deputy Minister of International Trade and Associate Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, gave the keynote address to open the meeting. Since the last meeting in Brussels, Australia and New Zealand have joined the process and a number of delegates from the region participated in this meeting. For the first time, a significant delegation from the electronic industry association of Japan participated as observers.

Major accomplishments at the meeting include:

- Verification of a consistent technical and philosophical approach to messages;

- A structured education programme was designed for the developers and the users of UN/EDIFACT standards;

- Several new working groups were convened, including Travel and Tourism, and Interactive EDI;

- Five corporate-to-bank messages were finalized at this meeting. Agreement was reached to develop a further five. Similar progress was made in areas as diverse as materials management, quality control, transport and distribution.

An important step in the rapidly maturing global market has been the development of UN/EDIFACT Customs messages. These will have particular significance to the internal European market, to be established from January 1, 1993.

Ref. 90-030; Source: ECE.

IMO Facilitation Seminars in Africa** Thirteen national seminars on facilitation have now been successfully completed in Africa. The intention is to hold seminars in all African countries under a project being funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The first was held in Benin in April 1988 and it is expected that the programme will be completed next year.

Ref. 90-031; Source: IMO News, 2/90.

Calendar of meetings[1/]

90-06-26--28	ICC	Thirtieth ICC Congress (Hamburg, Federal Republic of Germany)
+90-07-16--18	EDIA	Second International Congress of EDI Users (San Francisco, United States of America)
90-09-17--21	ECE	Working Party on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures, thirty-second session, and its two Meetings of Experts, forty second sessions (Geneva, Switzerland)
+90-09-03--05	ISO	TC46/SC3 "Information and documentation/Terminology of information and documentation" (Berlin (West))
+90-09/10	ISO/IEC	JTC1/SC6 "Information technology/Telecommunications and information exchange between systems" (Australia)
+90-10-22--24	ISO/IEC	JTC1/SC14 "Information technology/Representations of data elements" (Tokyo, Japan)
+91-03-11--15	ECE	Working Party on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures, thirty-third session, and its two Meetings of Experts, forty-third sessions (Geneva, Switzerland)
+91-09-16--20	ECE	Working Party on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures, thirty-fourth session, and its two Meetings of Experts, forty-fourth sessions (Geneva, Switzerland)
+92-03-17--20	ECE	Working Party on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures, thirty fifth session, and its two Meetings of Experts, forty-fifth sessions, (Geneva, Switzerland)
+92-09-22--25	ECE	Working Party on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures, thirty-sixth session, and its two Meetings of Experts, forty-sixth sessions, (Gemeva, Switzerland)

Source to be consulted if more detailed information is desired:

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GATT

General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
Centre William Rappard
154, rue de Lausanne
CH-1211 GENEVE 21 (Tel.+41 22 739 51 11; telefax: +41 22 731 42 06)

IMO

International Maritime Organization
4, Albert Embankment
GB-LONDON SE1 7SR (Tel.+44 71 735 76 11; telefax: +44 71 587 32 10)

ISO

International Organization
for Standardization
1-3, rue de Varembé
CH-1211 GENEVA 10 (Tel. +41 22 734 12 40; telex 23 867 ISO CH;
telefax: +41 22 733 34 30))

RINET

Reinsurance and Insurance Network
Boulevard de la Woluwe, 60, Bte 3
B-1200 BRUSSELS (Tel. +32 2 761 62 11; telefax: +32 2 770 16 73)

TRADELINK

c/o Turner Spurrier/Rouland Ltd.
2-10, Lyndhurst Terrace 4/F
HONG KONG (Tel. 5-895 31 53)

Asterisks indicate

***	Work accomplished, decisions, measures implemented, conventions, recommendations, standards, etc., adopted.
**	Report on work under way, proposals.
*	Work planned, projects under study.

Reference

Ref. 89-000 = Item identifier for communications to the secretariat

Source = Abbreviated source reference explained in the Bulletin.

1/ As communicated by the secretariat of the organizations.
+/ New item, or addition to, or change in previous information.